

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

South Gate, CA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of South Gate for a Brownfields Pilot. South Gate was also selected to receive additional funding for assessments at Brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. The South Gate Pilot, in partnership with the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, targets brownfields within the predominantly minority (70 percent) cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Compton, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood, Paramount, South Gate, and Vernon. Historically, these communities (populations totaling 420,000) relied on manufacturing for economic development and jobs. However, as industrial output declined, the area was left with high unemployment and environmental contamination. An estimated 50,000 jobs in the aerospace industry alone were lost from 1988 to 1995. To date, 76 brownfields have been identified within the 10 cities, comprising 124 acres of the 12.29 square miles of industrial land in the project area.

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot will identify brownfields with the best potential for reuse through a community-based, site selection process. This focused approach will then build support within the local communities and the

PILOT SNAPSHOT



South Gate, CA

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000
Greenspace: \$50,000

Profile: The Pilot targets brownfields in 10 disadvantaged cities in Los Angeles. Assessment and cleanup of these sites will facilitate job creation and economic growth in these cities.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

private sector for brownfields assessment and cleanup, leading to the overall economic goals of job creation and new industrial capacity. In addition, the Pilot will use greenspace funds to perform an environmental assessment of a site in the City of Maywood. Maywood is the most densely populated city in the state, with only 5.8 acres of parkland currently. This Pilot will help provide open space and recreation opportunities to the city.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Performing a brownfields site inventory to identify sites with the best potential for redevelopment;
- Carrying out community-based site selection of brownfields suitable for reuse;
- Conducting preliminary screening assessments on 15 sites; performing Phase I assessments on three to six sites, and performing a Phase II assessment and developing a cleanup plan for the highest-priority site; and
- Performing Phase I and II site assessments and conducting community outreach activities at the Maywood greenspace site.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.